

ably thick strong dark hair He knew all about
the subject of
the debate, knew more than the lecturer, knew
more than
anybody present, had read everything that had
ever been \written
on the subject, and remembered all the facts that
bore upon it
He used notes, read them, ticked them off one by
one and thiew
them away, and finished with a coolness and
clearness that to
me, in my then trembling state, seemed
maraculous This young
man was the ablest man in England—Sidney
Webb "

Shaw, deeply impressed, was by no means disposed to leave the matter at that. On the contrary, by his own account, he proceeded "to force my friendship on Sidney Webb—the most successful thing I ever did." Why was no far-seeing Max or Low alive at the time to draw pictures of these two, as in the years that followed, with the friendship established, they went about together, at work and at play? For there was plenty of play, as well as a great deal of hard work. They went on holidays—to Holland, where Shaw made Webb look at pictures and to Oberammergau, where he refused to be taken for walks but sat in the hotel writing letters. They were a veritable Damon and Pythias for the next ten years. Though an intimate, it was not an exclusive friendship. Very soon they had drawn in two other young men, very different in background but full, like them, of ardent political and social passion, whom they caught as they came down from Oxford—Graham Wallas and Sydney Olivier and the duo expanded to a quartette. An amazing quartette it was with some

thing of the carefree intensity of the immortal
Musketeers,
to whom it has oftened been likened Not
all the parts
fit If G B S with his red head and Irish
impudence,
is an obvious D'Artagnan, and Sydney Olivier,
tall, dark
and gravely handsome, an inevitable Athos,
there was not
much but his height to make a Porthos of
Graham Wallas,
totally devoid of his prototype's engaging
vanity On the
other hand, if Sidqey Webb, on no better
showing than